



**New River/Desert Hills Community
Association
Graham County Republican Women's Club
Tuesday, May 11, 2010
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer**

Wilford Drinkwine, believed his country needed him during World War II.

He moved his young son and his wife, Edna, halfway across America for a job in the Nevada desert, working at the country's largest Navy munitions depot.

I was born a couple of years later.

But, years of breathing poisonous fumes around harsh chemicals, finally took his life.

Wilford Drinkwine was my father. I was 11 years old.

The challenges my mother, my brother, and I were about to face were daunting.

For an 11-year-old, they were terrifying.

But, my mother taught me how to deal with those challenges – she met them head-on. She opened a dress shop and she went to work, 10 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I worked right beside her, every day after school and on weekends.

My mother didn't complain about counting every penny or being a widow with two children.

When life got hard, she worked harder. She never quit.

Let me tell you something: Edna Drinkwine died at the age of 87 – and she was my inspiration -- each and every day.

From her, I learned to make hard choices.

She taught me the value of action -- that if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

She taught me to honor our country.

She taught me that the only thing you're entitled to in life, is a chance.

And, she taught me that you're measured by how you MEET challenges. She was right, of course.

I've thought of that every day for the past year, every day since I was challenged with the opportunity to become your Governor.

I say "challenged," because for five high-rolling years before I took office, the system grew government as large as possible.

I faced a state budget deficit of nearly five billion dollars across two fiscal years.

I faced a federal government whose unfunded mandates and sweetheart deals were stealing Arizona's freedom and threatening to bankrupt our state.

Well, I am my mother's daughter.

I am up to this challenge.

I am a problem solver.

The Arizona Comeback began in earnest when I fought for – and won -- thanks to the help of courageous members of both parties in the State Senate and the State House – the right of the VOTERS to decide whether to raise the state sales tax by 1 percent over the next three years.

Now, I've NEVER voted to raise taxes in my entire career. Not once in 28 years in public service. Not one time! But, as hard as it is to do, I will be a "YES" vote come Election Day.

I'm voting "YES" because it's the right thing to do.

IF we are to preserve the core functions of the Arizona we all love ...

-- IF we want to keep funding Arizona's K-12 education system at reasonable levels to keep class sizes manageable so teachers have time to spend with students to help them learn...

– IF we want to help our universities and community colleges – facing tuition increases of 15, 18, and 20 percent ...

– IF we want to keep felons locked up ...

-- and IF we want to aid Arizona's poorest families with the help they desperately need ... then Proposition 100 MUST pass!

Without the revenue that a "YES" vote will bring, we will need to cut yet another billion dollars. Without it, education funding -- already at 2006 levels -- will be set back by at least 10 years and hundreds of millions of dollars.

I emphasize, this is a TEMPORARY tax.

It will start on June 1st of this year, and come to a DEAD STOP at the end of the day on May 31, 2013.

This is not a cure-all, but the tax will get us through until revenues recover, so that education does not bear the brunt of the downturn.

To those who stand in opposition to this tax – those who claim their opposition is based on conservative principles, let me remind you that when Ronald Reagan was elected Governor of California in 1966, he discovered the California budget had been built on a house of cards -- a Ponzi scheme -- designed to let politicians take credit for spending NOW and forcing OTHERS to worry about the consequences LATER.

Vast amounts of debt and accounting gimmicks -- coupled with a huge expansion in permanent spending and government programs -- had left California and its new Governor with a financial crisis -- and a state budget near collapse.

Sound familiar?

No one can challenge the conservative credentials of perhaps one of the greatest presidents of the 20th Century.

This great man, of great faith, was a true conservative.

Yet, he confronted the insurmountable state budget crisis by proposing and ratifying a tax increase.

Ronald Reagan had a good, conservative plan.

And, so do I.

We are focused on getting Arizona back on track -- bolstering our base industries -- advancing our competitive position in the global economy.

We have now permanently reduced state spending by over two billion dollars and returned state government to a size it can afford – one that is stable, predictable, and reliable.

We've streamlined agencies, shrinking the State work force by over ten percent.

Recently I announced the Arizona Department of Commerce would be replaced by an authority governed by a private-sector led "Economic Advancement Board." It will be focused on growing and diversifying our economy, and totally dedicate itself to creating and attracting more quality jobs for Arizonans.

We will now have a comprehensive approach – one for the 21st Century -- one yielding Focused Priorities -- Focused Investment – and Focused Efforts targeted on industries – such as solar, science, technology and aerospace and defense.

Don Carden continues as a guiding light in this reform, and he remains a vital asset in the preservation of the mission that the agency was created to fulfill.

I have also launched a Jobs Action Team – Commerce -- State Land -- the Departments of Environmental Quality and Revenue – are all working together to cut through red tape and speed what has been a slow government process.

I am committing ten million dollars of my discretionary funding -- through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 -- to establish a Job Training Assistance Program.

I am pursuing a combination of regulatory and tax reforms.

For the long-term, we're re-thinking areas of our tax structure that unduly burden our employers -- particularly those requiring large capital investments, such as manufacturing.

Arizona is making great strides in its approach to renewable energy – especially in solar.

Last summer, I signed legislation creating the renewable energy tax incentive program. Companies are interested -- and they are coming to Arizona.

-- Suntech Power Holdings.

-- Tower Automotive.

... Are all part of Arizona's growing solar landscape ... and Bell Independent Power announced it will build a five mega-watt solar plant at the University of Arizona Tech Park -- including a first of its kind thermal storage system.

So, you tell me, are we starting to win?

You bet we are.

We've attracted well over one billion dollars in capital – twenty-five new companies or expansion projects -- yielding quality growth with more than twenty-four-hundred jobs.

And, we've done much more:

-- "Operation Clean Sweep" has inmates picking up trash along our highways.

-- Our ArizonaSERVES Task Force is coordinating statewide volunteer efforts with faith-based and community organizations assisting those in need in our communities.

-- My Commission on Privatization and Efficiency is identifying state services and agencies whose functions can be eliminated, consolidated, streamlined or outsourced to achieve greater operational efficiency in meeting the needs of our citizens.

We are reducing burdens on business so we can grow our way out of the recession – even though Washington is acting as if the recession never happened by passing reckless new mandates that will slow growth and deepen the fiscal mess in the states.

The healthcare bill recently passed by Congress epitomizes the lack of understanding in Washington with plight of the states and business.

That is why I am joining with other states to sue the federal government to stop the unprecedented federal takeover of the health care system.

With its onerous federal mandate, Congress has exceeded its authority and left Arizona no option but to challenge its unconstitutional act in federal court.

And the total costs of their mandates will require Arizona to spend some twelve billion dollars over the next ten years -- more than double the size of today's General Fund to pay for their programs.

We MUST join this suit to ensure Arizona has a voice in the legal proceedings.

This is just too important for our State to sit back and do nothing.

The same is true for border security.

From my first days in office as Governor, I have been demanding that Washington fulfill its primary obligation to the citizens of our state: to secure our southern border, to enhance the rule of law, and to protect Arizonans and all Americans from violence committed by organized crime syndicates, out-of-control drug cartels, violent human smugglers, and common criminals.

Legislation I signed into law recently -- Senate Bill 1070 -- does not regulate differently than current federal law, nor does it pre-empt federal law in any way.

No new or additional documents are required to visit Arizona.

The same documents that the federal government currently requires for legal immigrants are required under the state law.

The bill, supported by statewide law enforcement organizations, provides local sworn officers the same legal tools provided to federal authorities and their local law enforcement partners for many years.

I am deeply disappointed by some who would suggest that additional economic penalties against our state are the solution.

How could further punishing families and businesses large and small be a solution or be viewed as constructive?

How could a state's enforcement of a misdemeanor offense that is copied verbatim from federal law be dismissed as hateful?

Respect for the rule of law means respect for every law.

I will enact this new law with the same respect, responsibility, and commitment to the protection of civil rights that I successfully enacted Arizona's law requiring voters to be citizens and to provide I.D.

Racial profiling, or any racial discrimination, is abhorrent and is specifically against the law in Arizona.

I believe every one of us wants to be safe, and I refuse to compromise on the protections of civil rights and public safety.

So, tell me, aren't these steps in the right direction?

But, wait, there's more:

-- We've curbed the Regulatory State – my first official act as governor was to order a moratorium on state regulations.

-- We've protected the Sanctity of Life.

-- We've supported Arizona as a Right-to-Work State.

-- We've done away with Political Correctness – returning Christmas and Hanukah to the Capitol.

-- We've protected Second Amendment Rights -- expanding gun owner rights to carry firearms while respecting private property rights.

-- We've brought traditional values back to our young people, restoring abstinence-only sex education in our schools.

-- And we've supported traditional marriage.

Now, I'm not aiming to please everyone.

I am aiming to lead this Arizona Comeback – to win the future for our children and grandchildren.

Wilford and Edna Drinkwine were common Americans, but they were the whole world to me. They worked hard, asked for nothing in return, and made silent sacrifices for the common good.

I am their proud daughter who understands that the call to public service is higher than any partisan purpose.

I am restoring Arizona – committed to its comeback -- based on our common values, cultivated in the soil of self-sacrifice.

Abraham Lincoln said, (Quote) "The struggle of today is not altogether FOR today; it is for a vast FUTURE also. With a reliance on Providence, all the more firm and earnest, let us proceed in the great task which events have placed upon us." (Unquote)

So, let us proceed in the great task of making Arizona our STRONG AND SHINING HOME.

Thank you. God bless you and your families, and may God bless this great state of Arizona.